

Applicants respectfully disagree. Even if Face is modified in view of Shimazutsu as proposed by the Office Action, the resulting structure does not include "a plurality of rollers corresponding to the rows and segments" of "the object to be measured in which segments are arranged and bonded in rows," as recited in claim 1. Both Face and Shimazutsu only disclose measuring smooth surfaces. Nothing in these references suggests any structure for handling an object to be measured in which segments are arranged and bonded in rows.

Moreover, the Office Action does not provide a rational underpinning to support the legal conclusion of obviousness. Face discloses a structure with two fixed support wheels, and a "floating middle wheel" midway between the two fixed support wheels. See, e.g., cols. 5-10. Modifying Face to add more "floating wheels" between two fixed support wheels, as proposed by the Office Action, would result in an unwieldy structure that would only further complicate the measurement computations of Face.

In view of the foregoing, the Office Action fails to establish a prima facie case of obviousness under §103(a), for at least the reason that the Office Action does not articulate a rational underpinning for the legal conclusion of obviousness, and moreover, that the proposed modification of Face in view of Shimazutsu does not meet the recitations of the claims.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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